

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 10 into claim 1; and, correspondingly, have cancelled claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have further amended claim 1 to recite that the modified silicone oil is included in the coating composition in an amount of 0.005 to 4.0 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the thiirane ring-containing episulfide compound. Note, for example, page 19, lines 8-11, of Applicants' specification. Various of the claims previously considered on the merits in the above-identified application have been amended to recite a coating composition, rather than a photocurable composition, in light of amendments to claim 1; and, moreover, in light of cancelling of claim 10, and amendments to claim 1, dependency of claim 11 has been amended, and claims 12, 13, 21 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In light of cancelling of claims 12 and 13, dependencies of claims 23 and 24 have been amended. Furthermore, claims 8, 9, 16 and 19 have been amended to recite that in the claimed method, the photocurable composition 'of the coating composition' is cured; and claims 9 and 16 have been further amended to recite that the curing is "by irradiation of ultraviolet rays" (note, for example, previously considered claims 8 and 16).

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered. Noting, for example, previously considered claims, including claim 10, as well as prior arguments made by Applicants, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments do not raise any new issues, including any issue of new matter. Noting

the rejection set forth in Item 4 on pages 2-7 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, as compared with the rejection set forth in Item 5 on pages 7-9 thereof, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments materially limit issues remaining in the above-identified application; and, at the very least, present the claims in better form for appeal. Noting further arguments by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments are timely.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made the necessary showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b)(3); and that, accordingly, entry of the present amendments is clearly proper.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims presented for consideration by the Examiner patentably distinguish over the teachings of the references applied by the Examiner in rejecting claims in the Office Action mailed January 9, 2008, that is, the teachings of U.S. patent documents to Amagai, et al., Patent No. 5,807,975, to Hojo, et al., Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0129385, and to Ishii, et al., Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0195270, and the article by Tachi, et al., "Photochemical Reactions of Quaternary Ammonium Dithiocarbamates as Photobase Generators and Their Use in the Photoinitiated Thermal Crosslinking of Poly(glycidyl methacrylate)", in J. Polymer Science Part A, Vol. 39 (2001), pages 1329-41, under the provisions of 35 USC 103.

It is respectfully submitted that the references as applied by the Examiner would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested such coating composition as in the present claims, having, in addition to the photocurable composition including (A) the episulfide compound containing a thiirane ring and (B) a photo-base generator

represented by the general formula (1) in claim 1, with (-A⁺) being an ammonium ion selected from the group consisting of those represented by the structural formulae (2) set forth in claim 1, (C) a modified silicone oil, the modified silicone oil being included in the coating composition in an amount of 0.005 to 4 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the episulfide compound containing the thiirane ring. See claim 1.

As will be set forth in more detail infra, it is respectfully submitted that by including the modified silicone oil, in an amount as in the present claims, in the coating composition, wetting property of the coating composition is adequate, while transparency of the coating film is achieved. The evidence in Examples 14-17 of Applicants' original disclosure, as compared with Comparative Examples 6-8 thereof, on pages 31-33 of Applicants' specification, shows unexpectedly better results achieved by the present invention in improved wetting property while achieving good transparency, for composition including modified silicone oil in amounts as in the present claims, as compared with coating compositions either containing no modified silicone oil or containing amounts thereof outside the scope of the present claims. It is respectfully submitted that this evidence of unexpectedly better results in Applicants' specification must be considered in determining patentability. See In re DeBlauwe, 222 USPQ 191 (CAFC 1984).

Moreover, note that the present invention is directed to a coating composition including a photocurable composition, more particularly, the photocurable composition has the property that it is cured by irradiation with light (see claim 28), in particular, has the property that it is cured by irradiation with ultraviolet light (see claim 29). As will be discussed in more detail in the following, the applied primary reference to Amagai, et al.

provides no mention of photocuring; and, more specifically, discloses, for example, in column 12, lines 54 and 55, a polymerizing/curing reaction by heating (that is, thermal curing). As discussed further infra, the secondary applied references, including Tachi, et al., which does not describe an episulfide compound, would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested the photocurable composition included in the coating composition of the present claims, including the episulfide compound and the photo-base generator.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the applied references would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested such a coating composition as in the present claims, having features as discussed previously in connection with claim 1, and, moreover, wherein X^- of the structural formula (2) is selected from the group consisting of borate anion, an N,N-dimethylcarbamate anion, a thiocyanate anion and a cyanate anion (see claim 27), in particular, wherein X^- is a borate anion (see claim 3).

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that these references as applied by the Examiner would have neither taught nor would have suggested such coating composition as in the present claims, having features as discussed previously in connection with claim 1, and, in addition, wherein the photo-base generator is capable of generating at least one of the specified compounds recited in claim 26, upon irradiation of ultraviolet rays; and/or wherein the photocurable composition of the coating composition has the property that it is cured by irradiation with light (see claim 28), in particular, by irradiation with ultraviolet light (see claim 29).

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the applied references would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested such coating composition as in the present claims, having features as discussed previously in connection with claim 1, and, furthermore, having additional features as in the dependent claims reciting the coating composition, including (but not limited to) wherein Ar is further defined as in claim 2; and/or wherein the compound (A) is a compound having at least one structure represented by the structural formula (3) in claim 4, more specifically, wherein the compound (A) is represented by the general formula (4) in claim 5, with the integers n and m being that set forth in claim 6; and/or wherein the coating composition further includes a solvent capable of dissolving the photo-base generator, as set forth in claim 7; and/or wherein the coating composition further includes (D) a silane coupling agent (see claim 11).

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the applied references would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested a method for curing the photocurable composition of the coating composition discussed previously in connection with claim 1 or 7, by irradiation of ultraviolet rays (see claims 8 and 16), or wherein the composition is cured by irradiation of ultraviolet rays in the absence of air (see claims 9 and 19).

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the applied references would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested such cured product as in the present claims, as in claims 15, 17, 18, 20, 23 and 24.

In addition, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of the applied references would have established a prima facie case of obviousness, it is respectfully

submitted that the evidence of record in the above-identified application, that is, especially the evidence in Examples 14-17 and Comparative Examples 6-8 on pages 31 and 32 of Applicants' specification, results being shown in Tables 3-1 and 3-2 on page 33 of Applicants' specification, shows unexpectedly better results achieved by the coating composition of the present claims, including (C) the modified silicone oil in amounts as in the present claims, establishing unobviousness of the presently claimed invention.

That is, it is respectfully submitted that this evidence shows unexpectedly better results in improved wetting property while achieving transparency, when including modified silicone oil in amounts as in the present claims, in the coating composition of the present claims. Thus, note that in Comparative Examples 6 and 7 no modified silicone oil or an amount of modified silicone oil less than that claimed in the present claims, is included in the composition, and wetting property was "C" (evaluation of wetting property being described on page 31, lines 24-28, of Applicants' specification). With amount of modified silicone oil greater than that claimed in the present claims, in Comparative Example 8, transparency was unsatisfactory (evaluation of transparency being described on page 32, lines 5-10, of Applicants' specification). In contrast, and as can be seen in Examples 14-17 with results in Table 3-2, wetting property and transparency were better including modified silicone oil in amounts as in the present claims.

As contended previously, this evidence in Applicants' specification must be considered in determining patentability; and, properly considered, it is respectfully submitted that this evidence establishes unobviousness of the presently claimed subject

matter, rebutting any possible prima facie case of obviousness established by the teachings of the applied references.

As to the unexpectedly better results utilizing modified silicone oil, it is noted that the Examiner, on page 8 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, points to Hojo, et al. as teaching a photocurable resin composition used in the field of optical articles, including modified silicone oil as a release agent with very high releasability. Such disclosure in Hojo, et al. provides no teaching with respect to transparency or wetting property of the substrate coated. It is respectfully submitted that such unexpectedly improved properties in transparency and wetting achieved by the present invention are clearly unexpected in light of the teachings of the applied prior art, establishing unobviousness of the presently claimed subject matter.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the evidence in Applicants' specification shows unexpectedly better results achieved by the present invention, utilizing the recited episulfide compound containing thiirane ring and the recited photo-base generator, in achieving a photocurable composition, overcoming any possible prima facie case of obviousness established by the teachings of the applied references. Properly considered, it is respectfully submitted that this evidence shows unexpectedly better results achieved by the present invention, utilizing the photo-base generator recited therein, as compared with using other generators, and clearly supports patentability of the presently claimed subject matter.

Thus, note that Comparative Examples 2-5, on pages 24-27 of Applicants' specification, utilize photo-acid generators. It is respectfully submitted that these Comparative Examples are closer than the closest prior art, i.e., the teachings of

Amagai, et al. Note Table 1-2 on page 28 of Applicants' specification. As can be seen therein, the curing condition shows that upon curing examples within the scope of the present invention, no tackiness occurred (full curing occurred); while in curing the compositions in Comparative Examples 2-5, tackiness occurred (complete curing did not occur). It is respectfully submitted that this evidence in Applicants' specification shows unexpectedly better results (unexpectedly better curing) achieved by the present photocurable composition of the claimed coating composition.

On pages 15 and 16 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, the Examiner contends that the photo acid generators utilized in present Comparative Examples 2-5 are not disclosed by the primary reference (Amagai, et al.) as curing catalysts,. the Examiner further contending that "no photo acid generators are specifically disclosed as curing catalysts for the episulfide-containing composition of [Amagai, et al.]". Thus, the Examiner admits that Amagai, et al. does not disclose, nor would have suggested, photo acid generators; based thereon, and even in light of the additional teachings of the other applied references including Tachi, et al., it is not seen how the Examiner can come to a conclusion of obviousness of the presently claimed subject matter, without Amagai, et al. disclosing any photo acid generator. Of course, this is consistent with the teachings of Amagai, et al., which does not even disclose photocuring.

In any event, it is respectfully submitted that where the tested materials are closer than the closest prior art, then such tests must be considered substantively in considering obviousness. As Amagai, et al. does not even disclose a photo acid generator, as admitted by the Examiner, clearly inclusion of the photo acid generators as in Comparative Examples 2-5 of the above-identified application constitute tests with

materials closer than those described in Amagai, et al. Applicants again renew their contention that the evidence of record establishes unexpectedly better results as compared with the closest prior art, that is, Amagai, et al., the primary reference applied by the Examiner, as the Comparative Examples test materials closer than materials in the closest prior art.

The present invention is directed to coating compositions containing specified photocurable compositions, useful for producing various optical products such as optical adhesives, optical coating materials, optical fibers, filters and plastic lenses, among other products, methods of curing the photocurable compositions of such coating compositions, and the cured product formed from.

Plastic materials have been recently used as various optical materials because of light weight, high tenacity and easy-dyeability. Various methods for photocuring episulfide compounds have been disclosed, as described in the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of Applicants' specification.

Moreover, as will be discussed further infra, a photo-base generator which is a quaternary ammonium salt with N,N-dimethyldithiocarbamate has been described as a photo-base generator for photo-initiated thermal crosslinking of poly(glycidyl methacrylate).

Furthermore, episulfide compounds have previously been cast into a so-called mold and then polymerized and cured therein to obtain a cured product thereof.

Owing to the remarkably high refractive index of these episulfide compounds, there is a strong demand for applying the episulfide compounds as a coating material for various substrates. However, since coating materials made of the episulfide

compound generally exhibit a poor wetting property to various substrates, it is difficult to stably form a thin film having a thickness of from several μm to several tens μm , of the episulfide compound.

Against this background, Applicants have solved the foregoing problems by the present invention. Specifically, according to one feature of the present invention, Applicants have found that by using a photo-base generator represented by the general formula (1) in claim 1, together with an episulfide compound containing a thiirane ring, a photocurable composition capable of being readily cured by irradiation of ultraviolet rays, and having a high refractive index, is achieved. Moreover, according to another feature of the present invention, a coating composition containing the photocurable composition and a modified silicone oil, in amounts as in claim 1, has improved wetting property together with transparency, with the photocurable composition thereof being capable of being readily cured by irradiation of ultraviolet rays, and having a high refractive index. See, e.g., the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of Applicants' specification.

That is, Applicants have found that by adding a modified silicone oil to this photocurable composition including the specified episulfide compound and the specified photo-base generator, with amount of modified silicone oil as in the present claims, the composition is suitable as a coating composition since the composition shows a good wetting property to various substrates. See page 4, lines 5-9, of Applicants' specification.

Moreover, Applicants have found that by including a silane coupling agent in the coating composition, a coating film having excellent uniformity and adhesion property is

achieved, as described in the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20 of Applicants' specification.

Applicants have further found that when the thiirane ring-containing compound is that set forth in formula (3) (note claim 4), the resultant photocurable composition is more suitable as a photocurable composition since a cured product obtained therefrom can exhibit a higher refractive index. See, e.g., the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of Applicants' specification. Note page 19, lines 7-16, of Applicants' specification.

Amagai, et al. discloses alkyl sulfide type episulfide compounds which can be suitably used as an optical material, the episulfide compounds being represented by general formula (I) or (II) as set forth most generally in column 3, lines 1-16, of this patent. This patent discloses that an optical material is obtainable by polymerizing and curing the alkyl sulfide type episulfide compound represented by the general formula (I) or (II). Note column 3, lines 47-50. See also column 3, lines 54-63. This patent goes on to disclose that the described episulfide compounds can be polymerized/cured in the presence of a curing catalyst to prepare an optical material, any of the known curing catalysts for epoxy resins being used (see column 9, lines 51-57); and that the alkyl sulfide type episulfide compound can be cured/polymerized with a compound having two or more functional groups which can react with an episulfide group, or a compound having one or more of these functional groups and one or more of other homopolymerizable functional groups (see column 12, lines 6-17). Various curing catalysts are disclosed from column 9, line 57, to column 12, line 3, of Amagai, et al.

Initially, it is noted that Amagai, et al. discloses, in general, an alkyl sulfide episulfide compound, and materials of this compound. It is respectfully submitted that

this reference does not disclose, nor would have suggested, such coating composition as in the present claims, including the episulfide compound containing a thiirane ring and the specified photo-base generator, together with the modified silicone oil in amount thereof as in the present claims, and advantages thereof as a coating composition as discussed previously.

In addition, Amagai, et al. discloses polymerizing/curing of the episulfide compound; however, it is noted that, e.g., in Example 1 in columns 13 and 14 of this patent, the polymerization/curing was performed at a relatively high temperature of 80°C, i.e., thermal curing. It is respectfully submitted that Amagai, et al. has no disclosure of photocuring. It is respectfully submitted that this reference does not disclose, nor would have suggested, such photocurable composition as in the present claims, especially having the property that it is cured by irradiation with (ultraviolet) light, and including wherein a specified photo-base generator forms part of the composition, or the curing method, including wherein the curing is performed using ultraviolet radiation, or the cured product.

Note that Amagai, et al. discloses a great many specific examples of curing catalysts, from column 9, line 59, through column 12, line 3. These include quaternary ammonium salts of specific amines (previously disclosed in Amagai, et al.) and halogens, mineral acids, Lewis acids, organic acids, silicic acids, boron tetrafluoride and the like. Note column 11, lines 53-56. In view of the many catalysts described in Amagai, et al., it is respectfully submitted that this reference would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested, nor would have directed one of ordinary skill in the art to, specific photo-base generators, such as those described in Tachi, et al.,

discussed infra, even in light of the teachings of Tachi, et al.; nor would have provided any expectation as to the better results in curing properties achieved according to the present invention, by the photocurable composition of the present claims including the episulfide compound in combination with the photo-base generator.

Thus, and among other features of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that Amagai, et al. would have neither taught nor would have suggested a coating composition including a photocurable composition as in the present claims, or method of curing including irradiation with light, in particular ultraviolet light, or wherein the photocurable composition has the property that it is cured by irradiation with (ultraviolet) light, and advantages due thereto; or even wherein the photocurable composition of the coating composition includes a photo-base generator together with the episulfide compound, as in the present claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the additional teachings of the secondary references as applied by the Examiner would not have rectified the deficiencies of Amagai, et al., such that the presently claimed invention as a whole would have been obviousness to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Tachi, et al. reports on photo products of quaternary ammonium dithiocarbamate and their application to photo-initiated thermal crosslinkers for poly(glycidyl methacrylate) (PGMA). Note, in particular, the first paragraph in the left-hand column on page 1330 of this article. The article describes a photo irradiation method in the left-hand column on page 1333. In summary, this article discloses that the quaternary ammonium salts with phenacyl groups and N,N-dimethyldithiocarbamate anions are

good photo-base generators, for PGMA, that produce tertiary amines. Note the "SUMMARY" in the left-hand column on page 1341 of this article.

Initially, it is emphasized that the article discloses that quaternary ammonium salts with N,N-dimethyldithiocarbamate are photobase generators for photo-initiated thermal crosslinking of poly(glycidyl methacrylate). This article does not disclose any effect of the crosslinking agent on optical properties, Tachi, et al. not disclosing optical properties at all. Noting that Amagai, et al. specifically discloses thermal curing, and that the article by Tachi, et al. does not mention at all an optical material, e.g., having high refractive index, or even episulfide compounds, much less episulfide compounds having a thiirane ring, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art concerned with in Amagai, et al. would not have looked to the teachings of Tachi, et al. In other words, it is respectfully submitted that these references are directed to non-analogous arts.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has pointed to no proper reason, based upon the teachings of the applied references to one of ordinary skill in the art, for applying the teachings of Tachi, et al. to the teachings of Amagai, et al.. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that only through hindsight use of Applicants' invention, which of course is improper under the requirements of 35 USC 103, would one of ordinary skill in the art have applied the teachings of Tachi, et al. to Amagai, et al.

Furthermore, it is again emphasized that Tachi, et al. is directed to photo-initiated thermal crosslinking for poly(glycidyl methacrylate). It is respectfully submitted that episulfide compounds as in Amagai, et al. are quite different in properties than

poly(glycidyl methacrylate). Thus, "S" is quite different from "C" in properties thereof, because they belong to different groups. Furthermore, the episulfide compound as in the present claims has a thiirane ring, whereas poly(glycidyl methacrylate) in Tachi, et al. does not have a thiirane ring. Particularly in view thereof, it is respectfully submitted that there would have been no reason for one of ordinary skill in the art concerned with in Amagai, et al. to have looked to the teachings of Tachi, et al., absent the description in Applicants' disclosure of their invention, which of course cannot provide a reason for combining teachings of references.

On page 3 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, the Examiner recognizes that Amagai, et al. "[fails] to disclose the photobase generator of formula (1) in claim 1 of the instant application", but notes that Tachi, et al. discloses a process of curing poly(glycidyl methacrylate) and the use of quaternary ammonium salts of formula (I) as photo-base generators. The Examiner goes on to state in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, that it would have been obvious to use the quaternary ammonium salts disclosed Tachi, et al. as curing catalyst/photo-base generators for the episulfide compounds with thiirane rings of Amagai, et al., "based on Amagai's teachings that any curing catalyst used for curing epoxy products can be used to cure the episulfide compounds", the Examiner pointing to column 9, lines 54-56 of Amagai, et al.

However, as mentioned previously, the episulfide compound is quite different from the poly(glycidyl methacrylate) in Tachi, et al., from a view point of chemical structure; and, moreover, Tachi, et al. does not discuss optical materials, much less optical materials having high refractive index. It is respectfully submitted that one of

ordinary skill in the art, e.g., in connection with optical materials and compositions for producing such materials, even with the teachings of Amagai, et al. and Tachi, et al. in front of him, would not have looked to application of Tachi, et al. to episulfide compounds having a thiirane ring, even in light of the disclosure at column 9, lines 54-56, of Amagai, et al.

Particularly in view of the unexpectedly better results achieved according to the present invention, utilizing the composition (that is, combination of components) as in the present claims, any conclusion of a prima facie case of obviousness of the photocurable composition of the coating composition of the present claims, established by combining the teachings of Amagai, et al. and Tachi, et al. is overcome.

It is again emphasized that Amagai, et al. has no disclosure, or any mention, of photocuring, in connection with curing the described episulfide compounds, Amagai, et al. having thermal curing. In contrast, Tachi, et al. discloses quaternary ammonium salts with dithiocarbamate anions acting as photoinitiated thermal crosslinkers for poly(glycidyl methacrylate) films. It is respectfully submitted that absent Applicants' disclosure, there would have been no motivation to combine the teachings of Amagai, et al., which do not even mention photocuring at all, with the teachings of Tachi, et al., describing specific quaternary ammonium salts acting as photoinitiators.

Moreover, as a person of ordinary skill in the art in connection with Amagai, et al., would never have been motivated to combine the teachings thereof with the teachings of Tachi, et al., it is respectfully submitted that such person would never have considered using the quaternary ammonium salts mentioned in Tachi, et al., in

compositions of Amagai, et al., from the quaternary ammonium salts disclosed in Amagai, et al.

Furthermore, the unexpectedly better results achieved according to the present invention are again noted. Even combining the teachings of Amagai, et al. and Tachi, et al. as applied by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would never expect the excellent curing properties obtained through use of the composition having the photo-base generator represented by the general formula (1) as in the present claims, together with the episulfide compound containing a thiirane ring as in the present claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the additional secondary references applied by the Examiner, that is, Ishii, et al. and Hojo, et al. would not have rectified the deficiencies of the teachings of Amagai, et al. and Tachi, et al., with respect to the rejections set forth in Items 5 and 6 on pages 7-10 of the Office Action mailed January 9, 2008, such that the presently claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Hojo, et al. discloses photocurable resin compositions suitable for formation of a finely embossed surface structure on an optical article, wherein in a first aspect the composition includes, as essential components, (A) a binder resin having photopolymerizable functional groups and (B) inorganic superfine particles in the order of sub-micron which can be dispersed in a colloidal form in a diluting solvent for preparation of a coating liquid. See paragraph [0031] on page 3 of Hojo, et al. Note also paragraphs [0032] and [0037] on page 3 of this document. This patent document also discloses that a release agent may be blended with the photocurable resin

composition, and that by blending the release agent with the photocurable resin composition a partial remain of the photocurable resin in a press stamper pressed against the resin can be prevented when the press stamper is removed (see paragraph [0148] on page 12); and that a silicone-type release agent is particularly preferable, the silicone-type release agent including polysiloxane, modified silicone oil, trimethyl siloxy silicic acid-containing polysiloxane, silicone-type acrylic resin, etc. (see paragraph [0150] on page 12 of this patent document). Moreover, Hojo, et al. discloses that an organometallic coupling agent may be incorporated into the photocurable resin composition in order to improve heat resistance and strength of the surface structure having a finely embossed pattern, or adhesion thereof to a metal-deposited layer. See paragraph [0163] on page 13 of Hojo, et al.

Ishii, et al. discloses sulfur-containing polyenic compounds and photocurable compositions of these, useful for optical materials such as a spectacle lens, a prism, an optical fiber, an information recording substrate and a filter and useful for coating materials, adhesives and encapsulants for optical materials, the photocurable compositions containing 3,3'-thiobis(propene-1,2-dithiol) of a specified formula set forth in paragraph [0010] on page 1 of this patent document. See also paragraphs [0017]-[0019] on page 2 of Ishii, et al. Note also paragraph [0050] on page 5, and paragraph [0119] on page 21 of this patent document, the later paragraph describing a method of molding the cured product.

Even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of Hojo, et al. and of Ishii, et al. were properly combinable with the teachings of Amagai, et al. and Tachi, et al., Applicants maintain their contention that the teachings of Amagai, et al. and of Tachi, et

al. would not have been properly combinable. And even if the teachings of all of these reference were properly combinable, the combined teachings of the three (3) or four (4) references as applied by the Examiner would have neither disclosed nor would have suggested the presently claimed invention, i.e., the coating composition including modified silicone oil in an amount thereof as in the present claims, with unexpectedly better results of good wetting property and transparency; and with the coating composition including the photocurable composition, or method wherein the composition is cured by irradiation with ultraviolet light, particularly wherein the irradiation is performed in the absence of air; or other features of the present invention as discussed previously, including, inter alia, wherein the photocurable composition has the property that it is cured by irradiation with light (in particular, cured by irradiation with ultraviolet light).

The contention by the Examiner in the third paragraph of Item 7, on page 11 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2008, is noted. It is again emphasized that Amagai, et al. discloses thermal curing. It is respectfully submitted that the teachings of Amagai, et al. as a whole, including the curing catalysts described therein, must be considered in terms of the teachings of this reference as a whole, including the curing disclosed therein.

In any event, it is again emphasized that Amagai, et al. discloses many curing agents. It is respectfully submitted that particularly in view of the many curing agents disclosed in Amagai, et al., great weight must be given to the disclosure of unexpectedly better results in Applicants' specification, for the specific photo-base generator of the present claims.

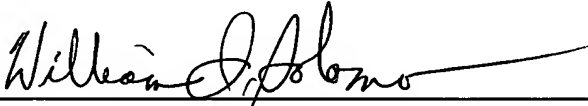
March 9, 2009

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, entry of the present amendments, and reconsideration and allowance of all claims presently pending in the above-identified application, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Kindly charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Account No. 01-2135 (case 396.45781X00), and please credit any overpayments to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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